

THE CHECKERED BEETLES OF NEPAL (COLEOPTERA : CLERIDAE)¹

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Four species of Cleridae are recorded from Nepal for the first time: *Cyldroctenus birmanicum* (Gorham), New Combination; *Opilo sordidus* (Westwood); *Orthrius corporaali* (Winkler), New Combination; and *Stigmatium mutillaecolor* (White); New Record. The genus *Tillopilo* Winkler (type-species *T. corporaali* Winkler) is synonymized with the genus *Orthrius* Gorham (type-species *O. cylindricus* Gorham), New Synonymy. *Tillopilo discoidalis* (Fairmaire) from China is transferred to the genus *Tillus* Olivier, New Combination. A key to the 11 species of Cleridae known from Nepal is provided. For each species, a complete bibliography, type locality, type repository, brief diagnosis, and distributional data are provided.

INTRODUCTION

I was recently given a small collection of Cleridae from Nepal which increased the number of species known from this country by four. I thought that a summary of the present state of knowledge of Cleridae in Nepal would be beneficial to collectors and those interested in forest entomology. For each species, complete bibliographic information, type locality, location of type specimens, a brief diagnosis, and distributional data are provided below. The information given here will doubtless have to be updated as more material becomes available for study.

KEY TO CLERIDAE OF NEPAL

1. Procoxal cavities closed posteriorly (Subfamily Tillinae) 2
- Procoxal cavities open posteriorly 5
2. Metatibiae strongly swollen
..... *Diplophorusa rosti* (Schenkling)
- Metatibiae not strongly swollen 3
3. Antennomere 3 serrate
..... *Gracilotillus fasciatus* (Schenkling)
- Antennomere 3 cylindrical 4
4. General form elongate, slender; elytra densely striatopunctate; head and pronotum red, elytra yellow
..... *Orthocladiscus longipennis* (Westwood)
- General form robust; elytra feebly striatopunctate, shining; head and pronotum black; elytra black laterally and brown medially, with a lateral white macula
..... *Cyldroctenus birmanicum* (Gorham)
5. Antennae very small, not attaining base of pronotum, usually with fewer than 11 segments; elytra elongate, flattened, metallic blue (Subfamily Phyllobaeninae) 6

- Antennae large, attaining base of pronotum, always with 11 segments; elytra elongate or robust, usually rounded, not metallic blue (Subfamily Clerinae) 8
6. Elytra with six patches of grey or white pubescence 7
- Elytra with four patches of white pubescence
..... *Callimerus benedictus* Gorham
7. Apical patch of pubescence on elytra round, not attaining suture, comprised of dense white pubescence
..... *Callimerus aibovarius* (Westwood)
- Apical patch of pubescence on elytra triangular, attaining the suture, comprised of sparse grey pubescence
..... *Callimerus amabilis* Gorham
8. Eyes coarsely granulate (facets having diameter 0.30 mm or greater) 9
- Eyes finely granulate (facets having diameter less than 0.30 mm) 10
9. Terminal segment of maxillary palpi triangular
..... *Opilo sordidus* (Westwood)
- Terminal segment of maxillary palpi elongate, not triangular
..... *Orthrius corporaali* (Winkler)
10. Elytra with large, coarse punctures at base alternating with small tubercles *Stigmatium mutillaecolor* (White)
- Elytra finely punctate at base, lacking tubercles
..... *Thanasimus himalayensis* Stebbing

1. *Diplophorusa rosti* (Schenkling)

References: Schenkling 1908:362 (*Cladiscus*); Corporaal 1939: 19 (*Cladiscus*); Corporaal and Van Der Wiel 1948: 183, 185; Corporaal 1950: 20.

Type locality: Western Himalayas.

Type specimen: Deutsche Entomologische Institut, Berlin.

Diagnosis: The enlarged metatibiae will distinguish this species from all other sympatric Cleridae; head and elytra black, pronotum medially red, laterally black; length 8.0 mm.

Distribution: Known only from the Western Himalayas.

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2. *Gracilotillus fasciatus* (Schenkling)

References: Schenkling 1908:362 (*Cladiscus*); Corporaal 1939:19 (*Cladiscus*); Corporaal and Van Der Wiel 1948:181, 183; Corporaal 1950:20.

Type locality: Western Himalayas.

Type specimen: Deutsche Entomologische Institut, Berlin.

Diagnosis: Head black; pronotum and scutellum red; elytra black with a narrow transverse yellow macula and/or base of elytra red; length 5.0 to 8.0 mm.

Distribution: Northern India to Western Himalayas.

3. *Orthocladiscus longipennis* (Westwood)

References: Westwood 1849:52 (*Cladiscus*); 1852:39 (*Cladiscus*); Gorham 1876:62 (*Cladiscus*); Schenkling 1908:362; Corporaal 1939:20; Corporaal and Van Der Wiel 1948:158-188; Corporaal 1950:21.

Type locality: Himalayas.

Type specimen: Hope collection, Oxford University.

Diagnosis: Large, robust; covered with dense black pubescence; head and pronotum red; elytra yellowish-brown; length 15.0-20.0 mm.

Distribution: From Northern India throughout the Himalayan region.

4. *Cylidroctonus birmanicum* (Gorham)

New combination and new record

References: Gorham 1892:729 (*Tillus*).

Type locality: India.

Type specimen: Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova.

Diagnosis: Integument predominantly black; elytra brown along suture, with a white arcuate median fascia; pronotum and elytral apices robust; length 8.0-12.0 mm.

Discussion of new placement: This species does not belong in the genus *Tillus* Olivier as redefined by Gerstmeier and Kuff (1992: 57-59); it is my opinion that it rather belongs to the

genus *Cylidroctonus* Kraatz.

Distribution: Found throughout much of India. This is the first record of this species from Nepal; my material is from Amelkghanj, Nepal.

5. *Callimerus albovarius* (Westwood)

References: Westwood 1849:50 (*Xylobius*); 1852:40 (*Clerus*); Gorham 1876:65; Corporaal 1950:84.

Type locality: Himalayas.

Type specimen: Hope collection, Oxford University.

Diagnosis: Superficially similar to *C. amabilis*, differing in the details of the apical elytral patch of pubescence (as described in key).

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

6. *Callimerus amabilis* Gorham

References: Gorham 1876:66; Schenkling 1915:111; Corporaal 1939:39; 1950:84.

Type locality: Himalayas.

Type specimen: Gorham Collection, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

Diagnosis: Very dark bluish-black, legs yellow; elytra coarsely punctate at base; pronotum with white pubescence at apex and base; elytra with six patches of white pubescence, two on the basal third, one medial, two at apical third, one at apices; length 12.0-15.0 mm.

Distribution: Generally distributed from Nepal to southern China.

7. *Callimerus benedictus* Gorham

References: Gorham 1893:573; Corporaal 1950:85.

Type locality: Assam.

Type specimen: Gorham Collection, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

Diagnosis: Very dark bluish-black, shining, legs yellow; elytra coarsely punctate at base; pronotum with scattered basal and apical white pubescence;

elytra with four patches of white pubescence, one basal, two medial, one apical; length 8.5 mm.

Distribution: From Northern India into the Western Himalayan region.

8. *Opilo sordidus* (Westwood)
New record

References: Westwood 1852:42 (*Opilus*); Corporaal 1926:212; 1939:23; 1950:113.

Type locality: India.

Type specimen: Hope collection, Oxford University.

Diagnosis: Head, pronotum, femoral apices, tibiae, tarsi, and ventrum dark reddish-brown; base of femora and elytra (with the exception of irregular reddish-brown maculae along the suture) yellowish-brown; length 15.0-20.0 mm.

Distribution: Previously known only from India. This is the first record of this species from Nepal; my material is from Sangda, Nepal.

9. *Orthrius corporaali* (Winkler)
New combination and New record

References: Winkler 1958:245-248 (*Tillopilo*).

Type locality: Tienmuschan, Northwest China.

Type specimen: Winkler Collection, Prague.

Diagnosis: Uniformly reddish-brown, covered with dense brown pubescence; elytra with small punctures in rows; length 8.0-11.0 mm.

Distribution: Previously known only from the type locality. This is the first record of this species from Nepal; my material is from the Arun Valley, Nepal.

Note on new combination: The three specimens of this species which I have examined from Nepal are all extremely similar to the illustrations and description of *Tillopilo corporaali* provided by Winkler (1958:245-248); however, they clearly belong to the subfamily Clerinae, not Tillinae as claimed by Winkler, as their procoxal cavities are not closed posteriorly. Furthermore, these specimens belong to the clerine genus *Orthrius* Gorham as defined by Schenkling (1903:45) and Chapin

(1924:211). I therefore have no difficulty in synonymizing Winkler's genus *Tillopilo* (type-species *T. corporaali* Winkler) with *Orthrius* Gorham (type-species *O. cylindricus* Gorham). The additional species included in *Tillopilo* by Winkler [*Tillopilo discoidalis* Fairmaire] may be returned to the genus *Tillus* Olivier [type-species *T. elongatus* (Linnaeus)], New combination; I have examined the holotype of this species at the Museum National d'Hostoire Naturelle in Paris and judge it to be congeneric with *T. elongatus* (L.)

10. *Stigmatium mutillaecolor* (White)
New record

References: White 1849:51 (*Tillicera*); Chevrolat 1876:5; Gorham 1876:5; 1892:740; Schenkling 1932:25; Corporaal 1939:27; 1950:171.

Type locality: Bengal.

Type specimen: The Natural History Museum, London.

Diagnosis: Integument largely black, abdomen and base of elytra red; pronotum basally and apically with dense reclinate white pubescence; elytra with two broad transverse bands of reclinate white pubescence; length 10.0-15.0 mm.

Distribution: Generally distributed from central India through Southeast Asia to Western China. This is the first record of this species from Nepal; my material is from Amelkghanj, Nepal.

11. *Thanasimus himalayensis* Stebbing

References: Stebbing 1914:186, 508; Corporaal 1926:213; 1939:26; 1950:142.

Type locality: Himalayas.

Type specimen: The Natural History Museum, London.

Diagnosis: Integument predominantly black; basal third of elytra reddish-orange; elytra with two transverse bands, somewhat recurved on disc; length 10.0-12.0 mm.

Distribution: Northern India throughout the Himalayan Region.

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